

Secretary reported that the Commission already has received over 150,000 claims and expects many times that number. He noted that the Commission will require at least \$9 million in one-time expenditures, plus \$1.2 million annually, for a computer system for processing and verifying such a large number of claims.

We plan to meet some of the Commission's needs with funds derived from frozen Iraqi oil assets. Thirty percent of the funds derived from frozen oil assets transferred under U.N. Security Council Resolution 778 are to go to the Compensation Fund. This should generate sufficient funding for the Commission to proceed with its permanent computer system and to begin processing claims.

Meanwhile, the Department of State has distributed the forms for claims by governments (Form F) to federal agencies and state governments. On September 23, the U.S. Government filed its second set of 180 consolidated individual claims with the Commission, bringing the total of U.S. claims filed to 380. The Department is reviewing about 1200 additional claims received from individuals and is now receiving claims from corporations. The next filing is scheduled for December.

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Resolution 687, the Sanctions Committee has received notices of approximately 3.1 million tons of foodstuffs to be shipped to Iraq thus far in 1992. The Sanctions Committee also continues to consider and, when appropriate, approve requests to send to Iraq materials and supplies for essential civilian needs. Iraq, in contrast, has for months maintained a full embargo against its northern provinces. Iraq has also refused to utilize the opportunity under Resolutions 706 and 712 to sell \$1.6 billion in oil, proceeds

from which could be used by Iraq under U.N. supervision to purchase foodstuffs, medicines, materials, and supplies for essential civilian needs of its population. The Iraqi authorities bear full responsibility for any suffering in Iraq that results from their refusal to implement Resolutions 706 and 712.

Through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United States, Kuwait, and other Coalition members continue to press the Government of Iraq to comply with its obligations under Security Council resolutions to return some 800 detained Kuwaiti and third-country nationals. Likewise, the United States and its allies continue to press the Government of Iraq to return to Kuwait all property and equipment removed from Kuwait by Iraq. Iraq continues to withhold necessary cooperation on these issues and to resist unqualified ICRC access to detention facilities in Iraq.

As I stated in previous reports, in concert with our Coalition partners, we will continue to monitor carefully the treatment of Iraq's citizens, and together we remain prepared to take appropriate steps if the situation requires. To this end, we will continue to maintain an appropriate level of forces in the region for as long as required by the situation in Iraq.

I remain grateful for the support of the Congress for these efforts, and look forward to continued cooperation toward achieving our mutual objectives.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

Note: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Meeting With President Chaim Herzog of Israel

November 16, 1992

President Bush met today with Israeli President Herzog at his request. The two

leaders discussed U.S.-Israeli relations, the ongoing Middle East peace negotiations,

and the Middle East generally. It was agreed that the United States must remain engaged if peace is to be achieved in the Middle East.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Meeting With Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis of Greece

November 17, 1992

The President met for approximately 45 minutes this afternoon in the Oval Office with Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis of Greece. The two leaders discussed Cyprus, the situation in the former Yugoslavia,

and other European issues. On the issue of Macedonia, the President reiterated our strong hope that this issue be resolved as soon as possible.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Meeting With President-Elect Bill Clinton

November 18, 1992

President Bush and President-elect Clinton had a warm and informative conversation in the Oval Office today which lasted for 1 hour and 45 minutes. President Bush reviewed a number of trouble spots around the world and discussed United States policy in these areas.

At approximately 2:15 p.m., the President and President-elect visited their transition staffs in the Roosevelt Room. President Bush said he wanted a smooth transition and said he appreciated the task that lay ahead of the transition team. The transition meeting was attended by Secretary Andrew Card, Chase Untermeyer, and Bob Zoellick representing the administration; Vernon Jordan, Warren Christopher, Alexis Herman, and Mark Gearan representing Presi-

dent-elect Clinton. The discussion focused on procedures for making appointments, including FBI clearances and financial disclosure forms.

The two transition teams will maintain regular contacts. Secretary Card will maintain a small staff here in the White House and will oversee three transition phases: President Bush's departure and establishment of an office in Houston; the transfer of authority from the Bush administration to the Clinton administration; and the process of transferring Presidential papers to the Archives or Presidential library.

Both President Bush and President-elect Clinton expressed satisfaction with the meeting.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Withdrawal of Russian and Commonwealth of Independent States Armed Forces from the Baltic Countries

November 19, 1992

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the Foreign Oper-

ations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public

Nov. 19 / Administration of George Bush, 1992

Law 102-391), I am submitting the attached report on progress being made toward the withdrawal of the armed forces of Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) from the territories of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and on the status of negotiations regarding the establishment of a timetable for total withdrawal.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

Note: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dan Quayle, President of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Exclusion of the United States Marshals From the Performance Management and Recognition System

November 19, 1992

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Mr. President:)

Supervisors and management officials in GS-13, 14, and 15 positions throughout the Federal Government are covered by the Performance Management and Recognition System as required by chapter 54 of title 5, United States Code, unless otherwise excluded by law or under the President's authority as provided in 5 U.S.C. 5402(b)(1).

Upon proper application from the United States Department of Justice and upon the recommendation of the Acting Director of the Office of Personnel Management, I

have excluded the United States Marshals from coverage under the Performance Management and Recognition System, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5402(b)(1).

Attached is my report describing the reasons for excluding the U.S. Marshals.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

Note: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dan Quayle, President of the Senate.

Remarks Announcing the Agreement on Agricultural Trade With the European Community

November 20, 1992

I want to salute Secretary Madigan and Ambassador Carla Hills, and my announcement relates to their work. I am exceptionally pleased to announce that the United States and the European Community's Commission have reached unanimous agreement on an agricultural package that should enable us to press forward the global trade negotiations to a successful conclusion.

These global trade negotiations, the so-called Uruguay round under the GATT, are fundamental to spurring economic growth, creating jobs here at home and indeed all

around the world. I am hopeful that the breakthrough that we achieved today will spur movement across-the-board in the ongoing negotiations among all the GATT parties in Geneva so that we can achieve this comprehensive, global, and balanced agreement that we've sought for so long. In addition, by agreeing to solutions to our differences on oilseeds and other agricultural disputes, we've avoided a possible trade war, and that is very, very important.

I am particularly pleased that Ambassador Hills and Secretary Madigan are here with us today because they've done extraordi-